



Tie-Dye

Take & Make Kit

Watch ImagineIF's Liza's tutorial here: tinyurl.com/TeenTieDye



How does it work?

Tie-Dyeing is 1,500-year-old cloth resist dyeing process that works by shielding parts of the fabric from dye to create designs. The folds, crumples, and twists in the fabric are called resists because they stop (or resist) the dye coloring those parts.

People from Japan, Peru, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, and Western Africa decorated cloth this way for centuries before the 1960s counter-culture movement made tie-dyeing mainstream in the United States.

Materials

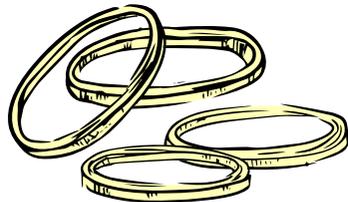
- Cloth
- Acrylic paint
- Rubber bands
- Bowl of water
- Trash bag to protect your workspace
- Place to leave your project while it dries



Set the stage

This project is pretty messy so it's a good outside craft. Set up your work space before you break out the paint. Use a trash bag to cover your work surface, shake up your dye, and set out all your materials. Wear old clothes that are ok to get stained and pull back your hair if it's long.

Process



1. Dunk your cloth in water & squeeze it out.
2. Pick a design (ideas on the back) and rubber band your cloth accordingly.
3. Squirt or dribble paint on your cloth.
4. Leave your cloth alone until it dries completely.
5. Clean up any stray paint while it's still wet. When acrylic paint dries, it's permanent.
6. Remove rubber bands to reveal your design.
7. Rock your hand-dyed design with pride!



Classic Burst

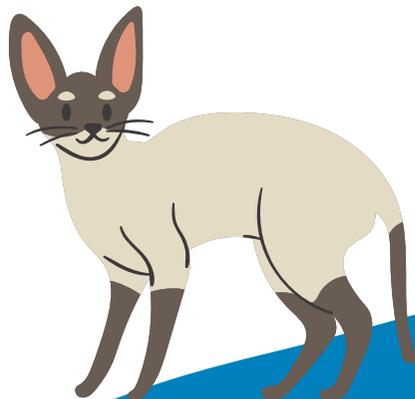
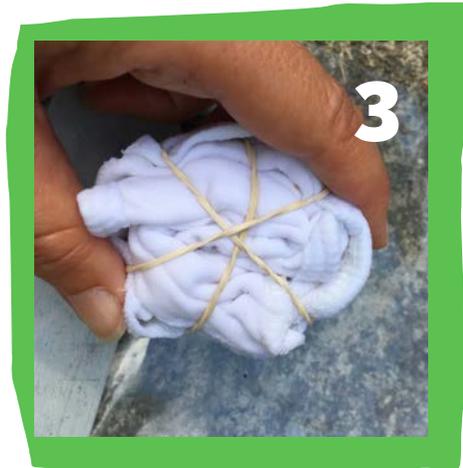
Grab the middle and wrap a rubber band around it. Add another rubber band a couple inches past the first, and continue until your entire cloth is gathered.

Apply paint to every other section.



Swirl

Pinch the cloth's middle and slowly rotate until the whole cloth is twisted into a spiral. Secure with rubber bands. Apply paint to either alternating sections or the whole bundle.



Free Form

Scrunch and wrinkle to your heart's content. Secure with rubber bands and then apply paint.



Colors to Dye For

Early versions of tie-dye used berry, leaf, flower, and root dyes. The bright colors and bold patterns we associate with tie-dye today became possible when synthetic commercial dyes, like the Rit brand, became cheap and popular in the 1960s.